

conservation and restoration; increased maritime trade, recreation, and tourism; and the establishment of estuarine research reserves which serve as living laboratories and classrooms.

The lands and waters of our coastal zone are subject to increasingly intensive and competing uses. More than half of the Nation's expanding population is located near the coast. S. 1534 will improve the Act by authorizing "Coastal Community Grants" to assist states in enabling communities to develop strategies for accommodating growth in a manner which protects the resources and uses which contribute to the quality of life in coastal communities. The bill will help build community capacity for growth management and resource protection; dedicate funding for communities to reduce the causes and impacts of polluted runoff on coastal waters and habitats; and reduce the pressure on natural resources caused by sprawl by targeting areas for revitalization.

As a measure of the support the CZMA has enjoyed, it is worth noting that in 1996, the CZMA reauthorization bill passed by a unanimous vote in the House, and passed the Senate by voice vote. We hope that passage of S. 1534 will form part of the legacy of significant accomplishments of the 106th Congress.

Sincerely,

Anthony B. MacDonald, Coastal States Organization.

Jeanne Christie, Association of State Wetlands managers.

Barbara Jean Polo, American Oceans Campaign.

Jacqueline Savitz, Coastal Alliance.

Dr. Michael Donahue, Great Lakes Commission.

David Hoskins, Center for Marine Conservation.

Cyn Sarthou, Gulf Restoration Network.

Tim Williams, Water Environment Federation.

Ed Hopkins, Sierra Club.

Richard Caplan, U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Howard Page, Sierra Club—Gulf Coast Group, Mississippi Chapter.

Cindy Dunn, Salem Sound 2000.

Diane van DeHei, American Metropolitan Water Agencies.

Joseph E. Payne, Friends of Casco Bay.

Gay Gillespie, Westport River Watershed Alliance.

James Gomes, Environmental League of Massachusetts.

Judith Pederson, Ph.D., MIT Sea Grant College Program.

Bill Stanton, North & South Rivers Watershed Association.

Robert W. Howarth, Ph.D., Environmental Defense.

Michelle C. Kremer, Surfrider Foundation.

Enid Siskin, Gulf Coast Environmental Defense.

Elizabeth Sturcken, Coastal Advocacy Network.

Polly Bradley, SWIM.

Ken Kirk, Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies.

Denise Washko, California CoastKeeper.

Roger Stern, Marine Studies Consortium.

Victor D'Amato, North Carolina Chapter Sierra Club.

Nina Bell, J.D., Northwest Environmental Advocates.

Donald L. Larson, Kitsap Diving Association.

Cliff McCreedy, Oceanwatch.

Richard Delaney, Urban Harbors Institute, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston.

Dee Von Quirolo, Executive Director, Reef Relief, Key West, Florida.

like the late Mike McKevitt did. Former Congressman and Assistant U.S. Attorney General James D. "Mike" McKevitt passed away last week here in Washington, DC. He was a remarkable man, a selfless public servant, and a loyal friend. He was always working on behalf of others to make the world better.

His positive attitude, personal warmth and absolute sense of fair play were most unique in a far too often cynical, and mean-spirited town called Washington, DC. For 30 years, he rose above the pettiness, nonsense and nastiness that often dominates the environment of the world's most powerful city. He made it more fun to be here. He made it all seem more noble than most of it is.

We will all miss Mike McKevitt. We are all better because of him. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his wonderful wife Judy and his daughters and grandchildren.

I ask unanimous consent that the attached obituary from The Washington Post on Congressman McKevitt be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 30, 2000]

CONGRESSMAN JAMES D. "MIKE" McKEVITT, 71, DIES]

James D. "Mike" McKevitt, 71, a partner in the Washington government affairs firm of McKevitt & Schneier who was a former congressman and U.S. assistant attorney general, died Sept. 28 at Sibley Memorial Hospital after a heart attack. He lived in McLean.

Mr. McKevitt served in the House as a Colorado Republican for one term before losing a reelection bid in 1972. During his years in the House, he served on the Judiciary, Interior and Small Business committees.

In 1973, he served as assistant attorney general for legislative affairs, then in 1973 and 1974 was counsel to the White House Energy Policy Office.

From 1974 to 1986, he was federal legislation director of the National Federation of Independent Business. He then practiced law before founding the McKevitt & Schneier government affairs firm in 1986.

Mr. McKevitt was a founding member of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Board. In 1987, the former representative of Colorado's 1st District was honored by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) as a moving force in the enactment of legislation creating the memorial.

Over the years, he also had served on the board of the USO, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and the International Consortium for Research on the Health Effects of Radiation. He was a past president of the University Club of Washington, parliamentarian of the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business and a member of the Bowen Commission on Medicare. His hobbies included sailing the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. McKevitt, who was born in Spokane, Wash., was a 1951 graduate of the University of Idaho and a 1956 graduate of the University of Denver law school. During the Korean War, he served as an Air Force combat intelligence officer in Korea.

He was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1956 and practiced law in Boulder before serving as an assistant attorney general of Colorado from 1958 to 1967. He then served as dis-

trict attorney for the city and county of Denver until entering Congress in 1971.

Mr. McKevitt was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square in Washington.

His first wife, Doris L. McKevitt, died in 1994. Survivors include his wife, Judith Woolley McKevitt of McLean; two daughters from his first marriage, Kate McLagan of Austin and Julia Graf of Park City, Utah; and four grandchildren.

THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES WWW.FIRSTGOV.GOV

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Administration recently launched a new website, www.firstgov.gov. That website is the first all-government portal and will offer one stop information from over 20,000 separate federal websites. This promises to be a great tool. Throughout the country people will be able to download tax forms, read up on the status of legislation, better understand the Social Security system. But Mr. President, meaningful access to all of the important information depends on what side of the Digital Divide you find yourself. To benefit from websites like firstgov, you must have a computer and understand how to use it, and you must have an Internet connection with speeds fast enough to search databases, view graphics and download documents.

As the demand for high speed Internet access grows, numerous companies are responding in areas of dense population. While urban America is quickly gaining high speed access, rural America is being left behind. Ensuring that all Americans have the technological capability is essential in this digital age. It is not only an issue of fairness, but it is also an issue of economic survival.

To remedy the information gap between urban and rural America, I along with Senator DASCHLE introduced S. 2307, the Rural Broadband Enhancement Act, which gives new authority to the Rural Utilities Service to make low interest loans to companies that are deploying broadband technology to rural America.

The Rural Utilities Service has helped before; it can help again. When we were faced with electrifying all of the country, we enacted the Rural Electrification Act. When telephone service was only being provided to well-populated communities, we expanded the Rural Electrification Act and created the Rural Utilities Service to oversee rural telephone deployment. The equitable deployment of broadband services is only the next step in keeping American connected, and our legislation would ensure that.

If we fail to act, rural America will be left behind once again. As the economy moves further and further towards online transactions and communications, rural America must be able to participate. They must be able to start their own online business if they so desire and access information about government services efficiently.

CONGRESSMAN JAMES D. "MIKE" McKEVITT

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, few individuals ever touch the lives of people

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to address this problem and to bring meaningful data access to all parts of this country.

THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last Thursday, the Senate passed S. 2487, the Maritime Administration Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. Passage of this measure will help to ensure our nation's maritime industry has the support and guidance it needs to continue to compete in the world market.

The bill authorizes appropriations for the Maritime Administration [MarAd] for fiscal year 2001. It covers operations and training and the loan guarantee program authorized by title XI of the Merchant Marine Act 1936. The House Committee on Armed Services, which has jurisdiction of maritime matters in that body, has chosen to include provisions relating to these authorizations in the House-passed version of H.R. 4205, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. Further, the House conferees on that measure have refused to fully accept S. 2487 as the Senate position as part of the ongoing House-Senate conference deliberations in part, due to the Senate's slow action on the measure. I hope by passing S. 2487 we will change that course.

In addition to the authorizations for operations and training and the loan guarantee program, S. 2487 amends Title IX of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 to provide a wavier to eliminate the three year period that bulk and breakbulk vessels newly registered under the U.S. flag must wait in order to carry government-impelled cargo. The bill also provides a one year window of opportunity for vessels newly registered under the U.S.-flag to enter into the cargo preference trade without waiting the traditional three year period.

The bill also would amend the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994 and allow the Secretary to scrap obsolete vessels in both domestic and international market. It would further convey ownership of the National Defense Reserve Fleet Vessel, *Glacier* to the Glacier Society for use as museum and require the Maritime Administration to including the source and intended use of all funding in reports to Congress. Finally, it amends Public Law 101-115 to recognize National Maritime Enhancement Institutes as if they were University Transportation Centers for purposes of the award of research funds for maritime and intermodal research and requires the Secretary of Transportation to review the funding of maritime research in relation to other modes of transportation.

I want to thank the cosponsors of this measure, Senator HOLLINGS and Senator INOUE for the assistance in moving this measure forward. I hope my colleagues in the House will join us

in supporting passage of this legislation so we can move it on to the President for his signature.

THE LATINO IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, last week, the Senate majority blocked efforts to bring the Latino Immigration Fairness Act to the floor. This bill embodies the essence of America: providing safe haven to the persecuted and down trodden, supporting equal opportunity for the disadvantaged, and promoting family values to our country's residents.

Many of my Senate colleagues perceive this provision to be a necessary addition to the H-1B Visa bill, which extends temporary residence to 195,000 foreign workers each year for the next two years. The Latino Immigration Fairness Act legitimates certain workers who have been living in the U.S. for over five years, and are ready, willing, and able to permanently contribute to our workforce and communities.

Unfortunately, the Majority's leadership has used parliamentary procedures to block this bill from coming to the floor. I am disappointed that too few Republican leaders support this meaningful legislation becoming law. I am convinced that the Latino Immigration Fairness bill has been proposed in the best interests of our country and in accordance with our obligations to promoting democracy and freedom in our hemisphere.

My support for this legislation is based on four fundamental reasons: First, this bill would provide Central American immigrants previously excluded under the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act, NACARA, the opportunity to legalize their status; it would allow immigrants applying for permanent residency to remain in the U.S. with their families instead of forcing them to return to their country of origin to apply (a process that can take months to years to complete); and it would change the registry cutoff date to 1986, which would resolve the 14-year bureaucratic limbo that has denied amnesty to qualified immigrants who sought to adjust their status under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. Finally, this bill would resolve the status of so many valuable members of American society. There are an estimated 6 million immigrants in the United States who are not yet citizens. A majority of these immigrants have been here for many years and are working hard, paying taxes, buying homes, opening businesses and raising families.

For years, U.S. immigration policy has provided refuge to tens of thousands of these Nicaraguans, Cubans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Haitians fleeing civil war and social unrest in their own countries. In 1997 the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act was signed into law. This statute protects

Cuban and Nicaraguan nationals from deportation from the United States. Those residents who have been in the U.S. since December 1995 can now adjust to permanent resident status. But Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Haitians are still not as fully protected.

In the last decade, Louisiana has provided refuge to thousands of Hondurans seeking relief from natural and human disasters. Displaced by storms, floods, war, and social unrest, many of these people have found warm and comforting homes for their families in the American Bayou.

My State, particularly in New Orleans, boasts a proud tradition of cultural diversity. The Honduran community was originally brought to Louisiana through a thriving banana trade between the Port of Louisiana and Gulf of Honduras in the early twentieth century. As the community grew, Louisiana's Honduran population became the largest outside of Honduras. For this reason, Louisiana seemed the most logical destination for Hondurans fleeing instability during the 1980s and 1990s. Once again, my state, like many others, opened her doors to our desperate Central American brothers.

The Latino Immigration Fairness Act will help fulfill a promise this government has made to these refugees, and attempt to finish the work of Presidents Reagan and Clinton. Under the Reagan Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service set up special asylum programs for these people to reside legally in the U.S.

Since then, they have greatly contributed to American society—raising children, paying taxes, and establishing successful businesses throughout our country—as well as contributed direct support to their relatives left behind in their homelands.

In a democracy such as ours, we must be consistent in the principles we uphold for our Latin neighbors seeking asylum. These people have fled political instability and social upheaval in their native lands.

As the guardian of Democratic ideals and chief opponent of repression in the Western Hemisphere, we must ensure that these residents adjust their status to legal resident under the same procedure permitted for Cubans and Nicaraguans.

In sum, I urge my colleagues to consider the United States' historic commitment to fair immigration policies. Our country has been built and continues to be sustained by immigrants.

In her poem, *The Colossus*, Emma Lazarus named our country the "Mother of Exiles." Personified by the Statue of Liberty, the United States of America continues to shine her torch on refugees from instability and strife—We have opened our doors to people of all races and nationalities, and have prospered from their valuable contributions to labor, community, and culture.

Now, failure to pass Fairness legislation will take away our promise of